

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5861
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR PINT PROG MILI MO SS CG
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. IN A WIDE-RANGING JUNE 16 INTERVIEW WITH RADIO FRANCE INTER, MOROCCO'S KING HASSAN ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF KEY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE ADDED LITTLE NEW TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON ZAIRE BUT HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE WESTERN SAHARA. HE EXPRESSED HIS "HOPE" THAT THE SAHARA ISSUE BE DISCUSSED AT THE JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM, ARGUING THAT IT WOULD BE RESOLVED IN MOROCCO'S
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FAVOR. ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, THE KING NOTED HIS COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE LOYALTY OF MOROCCO'S ARMED FORCES AFTER HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS TO "REORGANIZE" THEM OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HASSAN STATED THAT THOUGH THE POTENTIAL REMAINED GREAT, MOROCCO'S PARLIAMENT HAD NOT YET PROVEN ITS "VALUE" NOR HAD ITS MEMBERS BEEN AS "DILIGENT" AS WAS REQUIRED TO MEET MOROCCO'S NEEDS.

END SUMMARY.

2. ZAIRE. HASSAN MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE AFRICAN FORCES NOW IN ZAIRE WERE "INTER-AFRICAN," NOT MOROCCAN, AND THAT THEIR MISSION WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES (WHO WERE SENT TO PROTECT EUROPEANS, NOT "CONSOLIDATE" AND "PRESERVE" THE REGIME AS WAS THE AFRICAN FORCE). ACCORDING TO THE KING, THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCES ARE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE ZAIRIAN COMMAND AND WILL STAY UNTIL "PRESIDENT MOBUTU THINKS HE NO LONGER NEEDS THEM."

THE KING IMPLIED THAT IT COULD BE A LONG STAY.

3. HASSAN REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT THE SHABA INVASION WAS PART OF A COMMUNIST PLAN TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF VITAL RAW MATERIALS TO EUROPE. HE ARGUED THAT WHILE CUBA MAY NOT HAVE PROVIDED "DIRECT" AID FOR THE INVASION, ITS INDIRECT AID IN THE FORM OF TRAINING, LOGISTICS, WEAPONS AND MATERIAL WAS SUBSTANTIAL. IN A POSSIBLE ALLUSION TO ALGERIA OR LIBYA, THE KING ALSO REPORTED THAT "OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT ON ZAIRE'S BORDERS" HAD NOW TAKEN CUBA'S PLACE IN AIDING THE KATANGANS.

4. WESTERN SAHARA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE SAHARAN AFFAIR, HASSAN STATED THAT AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAR AS THE ARAB LEAGUE WAS CONCERNED THE "ISSUE WAS CLOSED IN 1974" AND PREDICTED "THAT IF THE (OAU) SPECIAL SUMMIT IS EVER HELD...THE AFFAIR WILL BE SETTLED" IN MOROCCO'S FAVOR. THE KING ALSO EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE SAHARA ISSUE WILL BE DEBATED AT THE JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM BECAUSE HE WAS "SURE THAT THE AFFAIR WILL BE RESOLVED" IF DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME. IF THE OAU RESOLVES THE AFFAIR, HASSAN ADDED, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE UN WOULD AGAIN TAKE UP THE QUESTION.

5. STABILITY AT HOME: THE MILITARY. HASSAN DECLARED THAT THE "REORGANIZATION" OF MOROCCO'S ARMED FORCES INITIATED AFTER THE 1972 COUP ATTEMPT WAS COMPLETE AND HE BELIEVED THE ARMY WAS NOW A FIRM BULWARK OF HIS REGIME. ADMITTING THAT BEFORE 1972 THE ARMY DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS FIGHTING FOR AND THAT SOLDIERS' NEEDS AND DESIRES WERE OFTEN NEGLECTED, THE KING STATED THAT HE HAD MADE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH "PERMANENT CONTACTS WITH YOUNGER OFFICERS," TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF MISSION AND TO RECOGNIZE THEIR KEY ROLE IN MOROCCAN SOCIETY BY INSURING THAT THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND FAMILY NEEDS ARE MET.

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6. LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE PARLIAMENT. THE KING'S VERDICT ON THE PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS LESS POSITIVE. ARGUING THAT HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD, HASSAN STATED THAT THE PROOF OF THE VALUE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS "DEPENDS NOW ON THE ELECTED OFFICIALS THEMSELVES." THE KING CRITICALLY REMARKED THAT "OUR PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE NOT DILIGENT ENOUGH IN THEIR WORK" AND THAT "LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE NOT USING ALL THE POWERS THAT WE HAVE GIVEN THEM." IN CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, WHILE WISHING THAT "THE MOTOR OF DEMOCRACY WOULD RUN A BIT FASTER AND MORE POWERFULLY," HASSAN EXPRESSED HIS
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BELIEF THAT THE PARLIAMENT AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE THE LEADERSHIP CADRE WHICH MOROCCO BADLY NEEDS.

7. COMMENT: THE KING'S CRITICISM OF PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL OFFICIALS APPEARS A BIT UNFAIR. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUBMIT MUCH SUBSTANTIAL LEGISLATION TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR ITS APPROVAL DURING ITS SESSIONS THIS YEAR. THIS, IN FACT, GENERATED A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM BY PARLIAMENTARIANS THEMSELVES TO THE EFFECT "THAT THEY WERE NOT GIVEN ENOUGH WORK. THE MAJOR PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED, THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN, WAS DELAYED AND EVENTUALLY REPLACED BY A THREE-YEAR PLAN WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED TOO LATE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THIS PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE NOT ONLY NEEDED TO LEARN THE ROPES OF THEIR JOBS AS THE KING ADMITTED, BUT THEY ARE ALSO FACED WITH AN ENTRENCHED NETWORK OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS WHO ARE USED TO MAKING LOCAL DECISIONS AND WHO STILL CONTROL A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE RESOURCES AND MONIES AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LEVELS.

8. HASSAN'S HIGH PRAISE FOR THE MILITARY REFLECTS THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HIS OWN CONFIDENCE IN THAT INSTITUTION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE YEARS SINCE 1972. THE KING HAS, IN FACT, PUT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT INTO REORGANIZATION AND OPENING DIRECT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HIMSELF, AS CHIEF OF STAFF, AND BATTALION AND REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS AS WELL AS PROVIDING THE ARMED FORCES WITH NEW WEAPONS AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. THE MAIN CHALLENGE FACING THE KING TODAY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INSURING THE LOYALTY OF THE MILITARY BUT RATHER TO KEEPING THE BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTING IN THE ARMED FORCES WITHIN ACCEPTABLE BOUNDS.

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